

which even with the obvious limitations of the data are detailed, clear and informative, and contextualise as much as possible the Vathykakas material in the wider Middle Chalcolithic archaeological record of Cyprus. There are good illustrations which clearly relate to the text.

It is unfortunate that results from the excavations at Laona, the most obvious site for comparative data, were not available when the Vathykakas volume was compiled. Nevertheless, the volume makes a useful contribution to our understanding of the late fourth and early third millennia B.C. on Cyprus.

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## ATHENIAN VASES IN MESSAPIA

MANNINO (K.) *Vasi attici nei contesti della Messapia (480–350 a.C.)*. (Beni Archeologici – Conoscenza e Tecnologie, Quaderno 5.) Pp. 327, b/w & colour figs, b/w & colour ill., b/w & colour maps. Bari: Edipuglia, 2006. Paper, €45. ISBN: 978-88-7228-468-1.  
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Messapia is the southeasternmost region of the Italian peninsula, modern-day Salento. It is the region between the Adriatic Sea, the Gulf of Tarentum and the Ionian Sea, the southernmost tip of Apulia that borders on the territory of the Greek colony of Taras in the west. For the Greeks sailing west from their homeland, whether the Mycenaeans of the late Bronze Age or the colonists of the early Iron Age, it was the first foreign territory that they encountered after crossing the Adriatic. The early and intensive contacts with Greece have been confirmed by archaeological excavations in the region, particularly in Otranto.

In pre-Roman times the Messapians, as the Greeks called the native inhabitants, had settled here. Our knowledge of them is fragmentary; we have more precise information only about their contacts or, more frequently, conflicts with the Greeks, mostly their neighbours from Taras, and later with the Romans. We know that they spoke an Indo-European language and that their society demonstrated a part aristocratic, part monarchic character during the period under investigation.

M.'s meticulously edited and profusely illustrated book, which is based on two scholarly dissertations submitted by her and D. Roubis at the University of Lecce, follows both in content and methodology the volume by Grazia Semeraro in the same series: *Ἐν νηυσί. Ceramica greca e società nel Salento arcaico* (Lecce–Bari, 1997). This work, however, focussed on all Greek imported ceramics including not only fine ware from various regions but also transport amphorae. It would be interesting to know what role the latter played in the classical period in this region (they are mentioned only once, p. 130).

M.'s first chapter gives a succinct overview of the geographical situation, the historical context and the research history. The bulk of the work is a careful and thorough compilation of Athenian pottery from the period under investigation; there are small fragments and completely preserved vessels from older and more recent excavations, in part unpublished. They are located mainly in local museums but also in private collections and major museums outside Apulia, such as Naples, Paris and Vienna. The catalogue, with 314 entries, is organised alphabetically by site and

context, the latter playing a particularly important role (as it does in the book by G. Semeraro). The well-organised and user-friendly catalogue has brief introductions to the individual sites, summary presentations of the 97 contexts and the remaining objects found, and detailed descriptions of the Athenian vases, the majority of which are illustrated with photographs and profile drawings.

The work deals not only with red-figure pottery, and to a lesser extent black-figure (two vessels) and white-ground pottery (21 vessels), but also with black-glazed ceramics, which incomprehensibly are missing in many comparable studies and are slightly more frequent in Messapia than figured pottery. The most important sites are Rudiae, Vaste and above all the Demeter and Kore (?) Sanctuary at Monte Papalucio in Oria with its many black-glazed kylikes, which has already provided large amounts of Archaic Greek pottery (published by Semeraro).

The quality of the Attic pottery from Messapia is in general rather modest, even if a few works by well-known painters are documented. These include the three vessels (a Nolan amphora, a lekythos and an oinochoe of type 8a, a mug) by the Pan painter from a grave at Novoli (nos 90–2). Of special note are the two large lekanides in the manner of the Meidias painter from Egnazia (nos 39 and 40), which are also of significance for their iconography (Aphrodite encircled by a number of attendants with inscribed names) and are sure to have formed a pair, the fragments of a rhyton in the shape of a mule head from Mesagne (no. 84) and the squat lekythos with relief decoration from Oria (no. 111, a naked athlete next to a large volute krater and a tripod).

Also of special interest is the Fondo Melliche site in Vaste, where tombs for the local elite from the late Archaic to the Hellenistic periods have been found. Several tombs, most likely from the same family, were found under a single tumulus. In addition to metal grave objects and figured pottery from South Italy, they contained a large number of Attic vessels of significant quality, some of which appear to have had the character of *semata* on the tombs or were employed for burial rituals, since they were found outside the actual graves.

The closing chapter touches on a number of points that are illustrated with the help of maps, tables and graphs and are of interest in a broader context: geographical distribution, the relationship between the various vessel forms, the kind of find contexts, the chronological development and pictorial motives, as well as the question of painters and workshops. The most prevalent forms are kylikes and kraters as well as lekythoi (cylindrical and squat versions). All other forms, with the exception of skyphoi, are present in modest numbers. Notable is the large number of kraters (39 column kraters, 29 bell kraters, 4 volute kraters), which are almost as prevalent as the kylikes and which for the most part seem to mark the graves of men of higher social status. In some cases they form complete wine services in combination with bronze vessels and utensils.

Graves and necropoleis are the principal find places of Attic pottery from the classical period, but it was found in several sanctuaries and settlements as well. With regard to the latter, these were only sites with a general settlement character since until now houses from the classical period have not been found in Messapia. Only kraters, skyphoi and kylikes were found in these contexts.

Attic pottery had been imported to Messapia in large quantities since the second half of the sixth century B.C., but a distinct decline is documented in the last quarter of the fifth century and the first half of the fourth century B.C. This can be explained by the fact that red-figure and black-glazed pottery was now being produced in Apulia itself and was taking the place of imported ceramics.

The region of the ancient Messapians has been investigated in exemplary fashion in numerous excavations and ensuing studies, primarily by archaeologists from the University of Lecce. This book will serve well as a model for similar future studies.

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## FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY

STONE (D.L.), STIRLING (L.M.) (edd.) *Mortuary Landscapes of North Africa*. (Phoenix Supplementary Volume 43.) Pp. xii + 249, figs, ills, maps. Toronto, Buffalo and London: University of Toronto Press, 2007. Cased, £48, US\$75. ISBN: 978-0-8020-9083-6.

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This important volume presents recent work on the death rituals of North Africa from c. 700 B.C. to A.D. 700, a subject, as the Editors note, rarely considered in English language funerary archaeology. It is based on contributions to a 2001 Archaeological Institute of America session, updated with reference to publications available up to 2005 and supplemented by papers commissioned from Ben Younes and Mackinnon. As well as older fieldwork it draws on recent excavation and survey projects, including those at Leptiminus and Puppit in Tunisia and the Fazzan in Libya. Since, however, the spatial context of burial is only sporadically the focus of analysis, the title of the original conference session, 'Mortuary Traditions of North Africa', is a fairer guide to content.

The chronological range takes the reader from the dolmen and haouanet (rock-cut tombs) of the earlier first millennium B.C. (Ben Younes) to the Byzantine cemeteries of Carthage and Bulla Regia (Leone). Most contributors discuss Tunisian material, although Stirling, Mattingly and Mackinnon also utilise evidence from Libya and Algeria. The Editors' introduction usefully reviews the study of burial practice across this area and sets it within the landscape archaeology practised in North Africa in the last four decades. Mackinnon's paper provides a parallel survey of skeletal research, assessing what demographic and palaeopathological conclusions can be drawn from the very small samples so far published.

Monuments dominate the surviving evidence and the papers explore the form, associated rituals, distribution and spatial setting of individual or connected types. The diversity of forms, even within typological categories such as 'shaft graves' and haouanet, prompts Ben Younes to emphasise the complexity of the Punic funerary world in which architectural and artistic innovations are reworked in a local setting. Stone argues that the haouanet 'habit' is a dimension of increasing social stratification in the fourth to second centuries B.C. Their placing asserted territorial claims and their interior decoration, whose painted motifs drew their force from exotic (e.g. Hellenising architectural sculpture) and traditional (hunting, combat) symbols, projected an ideology of 'wealth, power and violence' (p. 69).

Moore and Stirling discuss Roman period monuments with a *floruit* in the second and third centuries A.D., respectively the tower and temple mausolea of Africa Proconsularis and the *cupulalcupa*, the half-cylindrical tomb documented from Algeria to Libya, with epigraphic and architectural cognates from Italy and Iberia. Inscriptions show that the former commonly house the remains of members of the